

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MANUAL 10-507
NOVEMBER 30, 2004***

***Operations and Services
Public Weather Services, NWSPD 10-5***

PUBLIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSM 10-507, “Public Geographic Areas of Responsibility,” dated November 20, 2003. The following revisions have been made to this manual:

- 1) Inclusion of latest Public Zone forecast maps and listings
- 2) Replacement of office reports with new CWFA listings
- 3) Addition of CWFA areal coverage reports
- 4) Addition of Fire Weather Zone maps
- 5) Addition of U.S. Geographic Boundaries Map
- 6) Addition of Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code maps

Signed

August 30, 2004

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Date

Public Geographic Areas of Responsibility

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1. Introduction. This manual provides World Wide Web (WWW) links to public zone maps, public zone listings, County Warning and Forecast Area (CWFA) maps, and CWFA listing files. Individual state, territorial, and commonwealth zone maps are presented alphabetically. An *experimental* Interactive Public Zone Map link provides public zone maps in GIS format with the capability to zoom, request attribute information, and select any geographic center point for printing. Links to geographic areas of responsibility for other NWS service program areas (i.e., Fire Weather, Hydrologic, and Marine services) have also been included.

The maps and listings at the WWW links are best viewed in Netscape 7.0 or higher or Internet Explorer.

1.1 Public Zones. Public zone listings are arranged alphabetically within each of the six National Weather Service (NWS) regions (Alaska, Central, Eastern, Pacific, Southern, and Western) and provide zone-related information including: associated state, zone code, zone name, county name/area designation, Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) code, Weather Forecast Office (WFO) name, and WFO ID.

1.2 County Warning and Forecast Areas. CWFA maps are arranged both alphabetically by state and alphabetically by state within each of the NWS regions. CWFA listing files are arranged alphabetically by WFO, state, and county name. The listings consist of WFO name and office ID, county/parish/independent city name and corresponding state, FIPS code, portion of county in CWFA, square mileage of counties and county parts, and population of the entire county.

2. Public Zone and County Warning and Forecast Area Definition/Designation. When defining/designating public zone and CWFA boundaries, full consideration is given to which WFO is most capable of providing warnings and forecasts for the area populace.

2.1 Public Zones. Generally, a zone shape is influenced by topography, political boundaries, climate, population, land use, transportation routes, frequency of hazardous weather, etc.

2.2 County Warning and Forecast Areas. CWFAs are designated by counties/parishes (or parts thereof), and independent cities surrounding a WFO, without regard to state boundaries.

Note: The links listed in the following sections are best viewed using Netscape 7.0 or higher or Internet Explorer.

3. NWS National Scale Maps.

3.1 [National Weather Service Regions Map \(.PDF\)](#).

3.2 [U.S. Geographic Boundaries Reference Map \(.PDF\)](#).

4. NWS State Scale Maps.

- 4.1 [Public Zone Forecast Maps by State \(.PDF or .JPG\).](#)
- 4.2 [County Warning and Forecast Area \(CWFA\) Maps by State \(.PDF or .JPG\).](#)
- 4.3 [Federal Information Processing Standards \(FIPS\) Code Maps by State \(.PDF or .JPG\).](#)
- 5. [NWS Local and Regional Scale Maps.](#)
- 5.1 [CWFA Maps by NWS Region \(.PDF or .JPG\).](#)
- 6. [Public Zone Listings by Region \(Including FIPS/County Information\).](#)
- 6.1 [Alaska Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 6.2 [Central Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 6.3 [Eastern Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 6.4 [Pacific Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 6.5 [Southern Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 6.6 [Western Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 7. [CWFA Listings by Region.](#)
- 7.1 [Alaska Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 7.2 [Central Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 7.3 [Eastern Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 7.4 [Pacific Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 7.5 [Southern Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 7.6 [Western Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 8. [CWFA Areal Coverage Reports \(Square Miles\).](#)
- 8.1 [Square Miles \(sorted alphabetically by WFO and County \[.PDF\]\).](#)
- 8.2 [Square Miles \(sorted alphabetically by WFO Identification \[.XLS\]\).](#)
- 8.3 [Square Miles \(sorted by size in descending order \[.XLS\]\).](#)

9. [Experimental Interactive Public Zone Forecast Maps](#). (This website contains accurate and up-to-date information, but remains under development to improve functionality).
10. Geographic Areas of Responsibility for Other Programs (Fire Weather, Hydrology, Marine). Information on geographic areas of responsibility for other National Weather Service programs can be found at the following web site or in the following directives:
 - a. Fire Weather Services: [Zone Maps by State \(.PDF or .JPG\)](#);
 - b. Hydrologic Services: [NWSI 10-903](#), Geographic Areas of Responsibility;
 - c. Marine Services: [NWSI 10-302](#), Marine and Coastal Weather Services Areas of Responsibility.